

A Lamentation.

She is engaged. Ah, woe is me!
Her love touched heart no more is free.
Her soul is cool, her beauty won,
This charming maid of twenty-one.
Ye gods, what mortal agony
Assails my breast and makes me flee
From sight of man? What lunacy!
Alas, I am indeed undone!
She is engaged.
No longer can her grace be
A heaven on earth, an ecstasy.
No longer, when the shining sun
Each day his fiery course hath run,
Can I be glad, for it's to me
She is engaged.

—Lotus.

SKETCHES BY M. QUAD

The Bear Got Walloped.

The station agent at Hilltop station had a full grown black bear which had been presented to him by a hunter, and the animal was chained to a pole a few yards from the building. There was an iron ring at the end of the chain which slid up and down the pole, and sometimes brain was on the platform at the top and sometimes down on the ground. The day that our train switched in at Hilltop to wait for the east bound express he was walking around the pole, and, as a score of us surrounded him, he acted as if he wanted to get hold of some one.

By and by the station agent came out and warned us to keep clear, but as he



did so a tough looking man, about 40 years old, began to remove his coat and asked:

"Mister, is your bear a fighter?"
"He's very savage," was the reply.
"So am I, and I'll bet you \$10 I can lick your bear in five minutes."
"You keep away from him or he'll make strings of you. See how badly he wants to get at you."
"Yes, an I wanten git at him just as bad. Wanter bot with me?"
"No, sir. Here—what are you going to do?"

"Goin to lick that bear out his butes in a fa'r bont. Everybody stand back and here goes! Whoop! Whoop!"

The agent grabbed for him, but he was too late. The bear seemed to be aware of the man's intention and was on his hind feet to receive him, but there was a surprise party in store for that animal. The man ran in on him and gave him a blow which rolled him over, and he got up to be kicked and banged about until his courage suddenly evaporated and he started up the pole. He received two or three good ones as he went, and the man would have climbed after him had he not been seized and held. He had licked that bear in just four minutes, and that without receiving a scratch, and as he put on his coat he looked around and said:

"I told you I could do it, an I hev. I've fit all sorts of bears from a black cub to a full grown grizzly, an I know my gait. Say, if there are any other bears along this railroad hankerin to chew some human critter up jist let me know an I'll serve 'em out! Hump! Why, I order hev put on my overcoat an mittens to tackle that varmint up there! He wouldn't fight a bunch of shingles in a dark night!"

They All Stopped the Clock.

An hour before sundown I came along to a man sitting on a log by the roadside and asked him where I would be likely to get lodgings for the night.

"Waal," he slowly replied after looking me over, "you might git in at Steve Taylor's, but he and his wife don't speak, and it would be rather unpleasant for you."

"Yes, it would."
"You might git in at Sam Burton's, but he and his wife don't speak, and you would feel kinder embarrassed, I guess?"

"Yes."
"Silo Adams is allus ready to take everybody in, but he and his wife don't speak to each other, you see."

"I see."
"There's Joe Harper, two miles ahead, and you'd be sure of a good bed there, but Joe and his wife haven't spoken to each other for months. You wouldn't enjoy yourself there."

"No."
"There's John Richards just across the river, but it's the same there. I saw John yesterday, and he said he'd see his old woman in Texas before he'd speak first."

"How is it in your case?" I asked.
"Oh, I could take you in all right and would be glad to do it, but me and the old woman don't even look at each other."

"Something queer must have happened in this neighborhood to get all the husbands and wives mad at each other?"

"Yes, sunthin did. A singin skule-teacher struck this naybarhood about a year ago, and in order to git folks interested he put up a chromo to be given to the best lookin woman."

"And some one got it, and of course that made all the?"

"No, nobody got it," he interrupted. "Every durned one of the 13 women thought she was entitled to it, and they turned out and mobbed the skuleteacher

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